

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to students across the country as well as in our district, because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with schools in my area the US Virgin Islands in terms of bandwidth needs. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a teacher in the US Virgin Islands, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high-speed broadband is the key to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

We use digital learning to bring our students and teachers closer to the world that is so physically separate from them. Our students have communicated and worked with students from around the world on real life projects that has an impact on their daily lives and learning. An example of digital learning in our area is where student collected data on water resources and shared it with others the world round to look at water uses and conservation methods and their impact upon those resources. However, our ETAN network is failing to keep up with our students' demand, and the need for a reliable high-speed network is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.